

COVID-19 Undergraduate Grading Policy of Spring 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Traditional Grading →	A	B	C	D	F	FX
Option for Spring 2020 →	PASS				NC	FX

FX failure due to non-attendance
NC no credit

The decision to allow students to have such grade flexibility is a direct acknowledgement of this unprecedented situation. We expect our remote courses to maintain the highest quality instruction possible, and we expect you to continue to seek the most from your courses.

Q: How will Spring 2020 classes be graded?

A: Faculty members will record letter grades as usual. Between May 7 and May 15 you will have the opportunity to tell the Registrar which grades (other than NC or FX) to convert to the P grade.

Q: How can I convert my grade?

A: The Registrar's office is preparing a special electronic form which will be ready for student use by May 6th. Students will be able to submit this form directly from their stac.edu email account. When your grades are posted on May 7, you can indicate on this form which of your course grade(s) (from A to D) you want to convert to a P. You need to make this decision by May 15.

Q: How do I know which grades to convert?

A: Obviously, the higher the grade the less likely you would be to convert it to a P. You worked hard for an A or a B, so you should reap the benefits. And in most cases, you would want to convert a D grade to a P. However, the C grades might be a tougher decision. A lot depends on your current GPA: in general, if you have a high GPA and want to keep it as high as possible, you might consider converting the C to a P; on the other hand if you have a low GPA and need every grade point you can get, then the C may bring your GPA up just enough to get off Academic Probation. There is more information about calculating your GPA available in the College Catalog, on pages 46-49.

Q: Will converting to a P grade ever lower my GPA?

A: No. Because the P grade counts for credit but is not calculated into your GPA, your GPA should remain at least where it was at the beginning of this semester no matter what. And remember, unconverted high grades (like A and B) will still improve your GPA.

Q: Will grades of P and NC appear on student transcripts?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there restrictions on courses that I can choose to convert? Are there courses I cannot convert?

A: No. The Grade Conversion option is available for all undergraduate courses for the Spring 2020 semester.

Q: I am on Academic Probation. How will this policy affect me?

A: The Grade Conversion option is available regardless of your current academic standing during the Spring 2020 semester. If you earn good grades, your GPA will go up and help you get off Probation; if you earn low grades and convert them to the P grade, your GPA will not change, so you may remain on Probation.

Q: Will these courses count toward my degree requirements?

A: Yes. All converted courses other than those that earn an NC or FX grade will count toward all appropriate degree requirements; however, converted grades do not count toward your GPA. This also applies to major/minor requirements. remember, courses that receive an FX will be counted toward your GPA.

Q: How will converting a grade affect me if I am retaking a course that I had failed?

A: A grade of 'P' will satisfy removing a previously failed course from the student's transcript and GPA calculation, but keep in mind that the P may not be adequate towards satisfying a prerequisite. Neither an NC nor an FX will give you credit and neither will remove the previous F from your transcript.

Q: What if I require a letter grade for a professional program, employment, or graduate studies?

A: Because letter grades will be recorded, it will be possible for students to request an official letter attesting those grades should that be necessary. We will ensure that those who need evidence of your academic achievements this spring will be able to get it.

Q: I am considering applying to Graduate School or Medical School. Should I convert any of my grades?

A: In this situation, it would be best to speak with your advisor.

Q: How will this change affect the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester?

A: To be eligible for the Spring 2020 Dean's List, students must have achieved a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or better while earning no fewer than 12 credits of unconverted grades, and earning no grade lower than a C. Note, as always: students involved in a student teaching experience in any given semester are not eligible for the Dean's List that semester.

Q: How will this change affect Latin honors (Summa Cum Laude, etc.)?

A: Latin honors are awarded to Baccalaureate degree recipients who have achieved a high cumulative Grade Point Average and completed the College's minimum number of credits earned at the College. Latin Honors are awarded to students who meet these criteria by the time of their graduation:

- They must have earned a minimum of 60 credits at St. Thomas Aquinas College.
- Students who have transferred into St. Thomas Aquinas College and have earned fewer than 60 credits at the College are not eligible for Latin Honors.
- They cannot have received any grade lower than a C.
- Their cumulative Grade Point Average must meet the following minimums:
Summa Cum Laude: 3.80; Magna Cum Laude: 3.65; Cum Laude: 3.50.
- The Spring 2020 semester will be counted as long as the student has earned 12 credits of unconverted grades that satisfy the above criteria.

Q: I am a student-athlete. How will this affect my academic eligibility and progress toward degree requirements?

A: Student-athletes are expected to complete all NCAA Progress Toward Degree requirements and are required to remain in good academic standing with the institution. P grades will be accepted as you will earn the necessary credits for the class. If you have any concerns regarding the NCAA Progress Toward Degree requirements or GPA requirements, please speak with Andrew Tartara, NCAA Compliance Officer or Nicole Ryan, Director of Athletics.

Q: Are these changes to the grading scale permanent?

A: No, these changes are for the Spring 2020 semester only due to the impact of COVID-19.

Q: Do the changes to the grading scale for Spring 2020 apply to undergraduate students enrolled in graduate classes?

A: No. Graduate classes are not affected by the Grade Conversion policy. Undergraduates taking graduate classes will receive traditional letter grades and cannot convert them. Students

in a program with another institution (such as the NYU MSW Program) should consult that institution for their policies.

Q: I am an international student. Will converting my grades to P for the Spring 2020 semester impact my visa status?

A: As long as you remain enrolled as a full-time student making forward progress towards your degree, converting your class grades to P for the Spring 2020 semester will not impact your status.

Q: Will I still be able to appeal a grade?

A: Yes. The normal Grade Appeal process will be in place. If you feel the initial grade your professor assigned to you is unwarranted, you begin the process by contacting your professor, then the Dean. If your appeal is unsuccessful, you may consider Grade Conversion if appropriate.

Q: Who do I contact if I have further questions about the COVID-19 Grade Conversion policy for the Spring 2020 semester?

A: Contact: Dr. Robert Murray, Provost
845-398-4125
rmurray@stac.edu

Ms. Eileen Murphy, Registrar
845-398-4310
emurphy@stac.edu